

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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HINCHEY FIGHTS TO SAVE "COPS" PROGRAM

PROGRAM HAS AWARDED \$9 MILLION TO HUDSON VALLEY AND CATSKILLS POLICE DEPARTMENTS IN 26TH DISTRICT

NEWBURGH - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today criticized a Bush Administration plan to eliminate a Justice Department program that helps communities hire additional police officers. Hinchey has cosponsored legislation to expand the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, which has provided 26th Congressional District communities in the Hudson Valley and Catskills regions with more than \$9 million and 120 new officers.

"The COPS program has been tremendously successful across the nation and in our region," said Hinchey. "With law enforcement agencies regularly being placed on terror alerts, now is the worst possible time to put an end to this initiative. Once again, the Bush Administration is going after an effective program in an effort to compensate for the president's faulty fiscal policy."

The COPS program was created by the 1994 Crime Bill, which Hinchey supported. It encompasses several grant initiatives and is primarily geared toward putting more police officers into the community. Since the inception of COPS, the program has awarded \$9,012,700 to 26th District communities in Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan and Ulster counties, allowing them to hire 120 new officers. President Bush has proposed eliminating the hiring component of COPS. It is projected that this move will cost those same communities more than \$2.2 million and 30 new officers over the next six years.

Hinchey is an original cosponsor of H.R. 2009, which would make \$600 million available annually to hire and retain police officers and purchase crime fighting tools. Under this proposal, the same region would stand to gain over \$5.2 million and would be able to hire or retain 70 officers over the same six-year period.

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Hudson Valley and Catskills communities represented by Hinchey have received COPS awards as follows:

Beacon	\$162,690
Dutchess County	\$398,490*
Ellenville	\$637,896
Fallsburg	\$69,677
Kingston	\$450,639
Liberty	\$260,224
Lloyd	\$99,892
Monticello	\$2,141,625
New Paltz	\$15,717
Newburgh (City)	\$2,735,728
Newburgh (Town)	\$802,841
Olive	\$69,709
Rosendale	\$75,000
Saugerties	\$75,000
Shawangunk	\$75,000
Sullivan County	\$300,000*
Ulster County	\$347,066
Ulster (Town)	\$173,717
Woodridge	\$121,789
Total	\$9,012,700

*Portions lie in other Congressional Districts.